

# The Italian House at the Five Points

1910

339.4

N488

Children's Aid Society

155 Worth Street, New York City

Reform Club

339.4

N488

Columbia University  
in the City of New York

LIBRARY







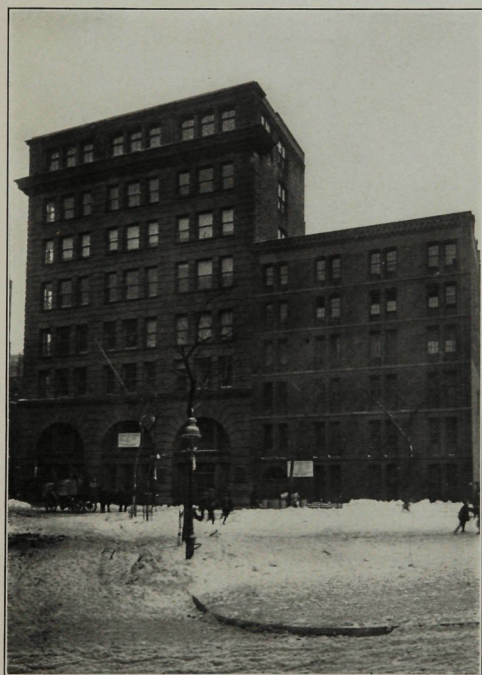






OF THE  
REFORM CLUB, NEW YORK,  
CITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

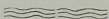
# The Italian House at the Five Points



*N.Y. City* — CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

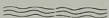
155 Worth Street  
NEW YORK CITY

# Children's Aid Society



## OFFICERS

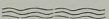
Wm. Church Osborn	-	-	-	President
A. Barton Hepburn	-	-	-	Treasurer
C. Loring Brace	-	-	-	Secretary



## TRUSTEES

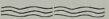
Arthur C. James	Arch. D. Russell
Wm. Church Osborn	A. B. Hepburn
Wm. D. Sloane	Douglas Robinson
F. Delano Weekes	Gustav E. Kissel
J. R. Roosevelt	Evert J. Wendell
W. H. Wheelock	Chas. R. Richards
C. C. Stillman	T. Tileston Wells

F. P. Kinnicutt, M. D.



## SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Matthew P. Adams  
Superintendent of Schools



Mrs. L. E. Weygandt  
Principal Italian School



## Activities of the Italian House

**A**BOUT fifty years ago the Children's Aid Society established an Italian School on Leonard street. Last year the Society took possession of two buildings on Worth street, directly back of the old Leonard Street School. One of these buildings has eight and the other six floors.

The real object of this House is to help people help themselves. Almost all of the courses meet four evenings a week, and are adapted to trade. It is only by teaching people to help themselves, that they can be made better men and women, able to help other people, and to be useful, true citizens. The social side is emphasized to just the extent that it is felt necessary to hold the members.

One remarkable aspect of this House is the strong hold it has on the grown-up men and women. This is a fine indication of its success. Not only has it influence on the people who attend regularly, but also throughout the entire neighborhood. This influence, which has existed for years, is at the present time stronger than ever.

There are four classes in English. These are arranged more or less according to the size of the pupils, for it is impossible to mix grown-up pupils with the younger ones. If younger pupils are in an evening class, the older pupils stay away, or else cause the younger ones to drop out. These classes which meet four evenings a week, are full to overflowing. The reason why they are so popular is that the Italian is unprepared for most work, except that of laborer, until he learns the English language. The Italian who is a bright and am-

bitious man, sees this and the result is that he wishes, above all else, to learn English.

The Girls' Club meets five times a week, and has classes in cooking, sewing, embroidery and dress-making. The object of the sewing is to teach a girl to make her own dresses, repair tears, darn, crochet, knit, and do other needle work so necessary for an efficient housewife.

The cooking classes have a finely arranged kitchen, with individual gas stoves, a large coal stove, and a large gas range. Classes in cooking meet four times a week. Each of these classes is made up of different girls. They have about fifteen pupils each, who are the young ladies from the girls' clubs.

The power-machinery class, which meets four times a week, consists of about twenty young ladies and men, who are learning to operate power-sewing machines. We have installed ten of the latest model Singer power-sewing machines. These are capable of sewing anything, from shirt waists to men's clothing. A girl in two or three months can gain enough experience in this kind of work, to fit her for a position as an experienced power-sewing machine operator at advanced wages. The Italians in New York are gaining control in work of this sort. We have only ten of these power-sewing machines, but the other girls in this class are employed in cutting, and in some cases using foot-power machines.

The carpentry class has a well equipped shop, consisting of a tallata; benches and about twenty iron and steel sets of tools. This class

---

## Italian House at the Five Points

---

four times a week. The first work done was to make horses, and then work benches. Thus, the young men begun their carpentry work with horses and work-benches which were products of their own hands.

The Italian class, which meets four times a week, was opened to fill a demand existing among Italian merchants for competent stenographers who can take in shorthand, dictation given them in the Italian language, and then transcribe it in Italian on typewriting machines. This is a unique department, and probably the only one of its kind in the United States. Assurance is given by a number of Italian business concerns that they can employ all the stenographers we can prepare.

In the typewriting department we have ten new Underwood No. 5 machines. The touch system only is taught. All of the typewriters are furnished with blank keys. This makes it absolutely impossible for any one to learn to use the machine who does not employ the touch system entirely.

The Young Ladies' Club is made up of young ladies who have graduated from the Girls' Club, and hence have received instruction for one or more years in sewing, dress-making and cooking. They felt that they wanted some room which they might call their own, and that they might have a self-governing organization.

The Italian class was started some years ago when it was found that many of the older Italians were paying twenty-five cents or more to have a letter written by a "letter-writer" to their friends or relatives. In many cases the "letter-writer" was not honest, and often to the disadvantage of the ignorant

Italian. A class for reading and writing Italian was established in the old school, and was very popular. This class has been continued in the new building, and is supported entirely by the Italian Government, which sees the need and value of such a class.

A model flat of three rooms has been thoroughly fitted up at a cost of about \$100. The furniture and fittings have been chosen so as to limit the price to about what a young couple might reasonably be expected to buy on the installment plan when starting housekeeping.

On Friday nights dances are held in the large dance hall in this building. The young men and women of the school are given the evening free from their classes, to participate in this affair. This dance hall can also be used for exhibits, such as that given by the Tuberculosis Committee and others.

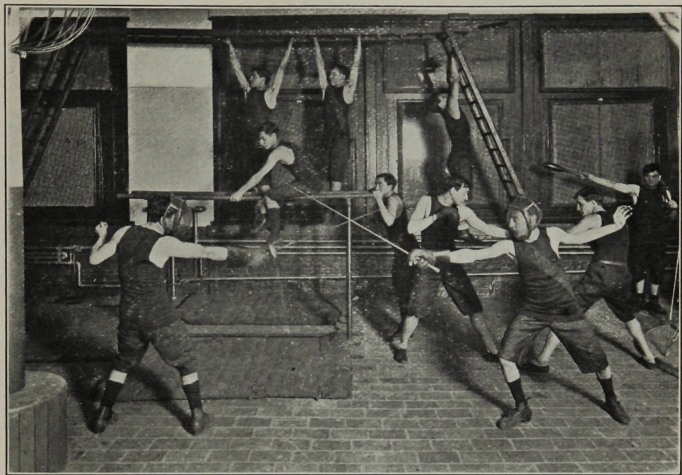
The Dramatic club was organized a number of years ago, and is made up of some members of the Young Men's Club, the Young Ladies' Club, and others. A number of plays were given at different times during the year.

The Italian Rifle Guard is a military organization made up of graduates of the Italian School. They have a fine equipment of guns, uniforms, etc. The dance hall is used for the drills.

There are two successful fife and drum corps in connection with this House. One is made up of senior and the other of the junior boys.

A civic club, of about twenty-five young men, has been formed, which has for its aim the study of civics, and the development of national and city patriotism. It is not a political club, but aims for civic usefulness among its members.





## Young Men's Athletic Club

BY JESSE NAPOLITANO

**A**S the new quarters, at 155 Worth St., are far superior to the old ones of the historic spot at 156 Leonard St., the Young Men's Athletic Club has improved wonderfully, both in numbers and social standing. The seventh floor is divided into a reception room, billiard room, reading room, card room, a large dance hall and the office.

The gymnasium occupies the entire eighth floor. It consists of two dressing rooms with two hundred lockers, shower baths, basket-ball court, running track and gymnastic apparatus.

In spite of all these improvements the yearly fee of each member has remained the same. One dollar, payable in advance, entitles one to all the privileges for one year. The membership is not limited.

The members all trained faithfully for the final meet which took place on April 15, 1910. As an inducement to the contestants a prize was given to the winner of each event. There was a basket-ball game, a potato race, a sack race, a three-legged race, boxing, wrestling, dumb bell and Indian club drill, one half-mile, one mile and a five mile run. The entries were open to club members only.

The five miles race was won by William Scagnelli in 31 minutes and 14 seconds; the one mile race by Charles Dondero in 5 minutes 42-5 seconds; the half-mile race by A. Tremonti in 2 minutes 23 2-5 seconds; the potato race by J. Garbarini; the sack race by Gasper Rettaliata; the three-legged by J. Mastronardo and Frank Capuro.



## Printing Class

BY C. R. CULP

THE printing department of this Society was started with the express purpose of teaching a boy enough of the printing trade to enable him to secure employment as an apprentice. We felt we would be accomplishing a great deal were we to do so in a term's instruction.

The boys in a printing office are looked upon as a necessary evil by everyone. Their necessity is of course acknowledged, but their existence and use are regretted. This feeling, too often and too freely expressed, has its influence on the boys, and many of them share in the opinion that they are of little consequence in the printing office. But we have a word to say in their defence and a little advice to give them.

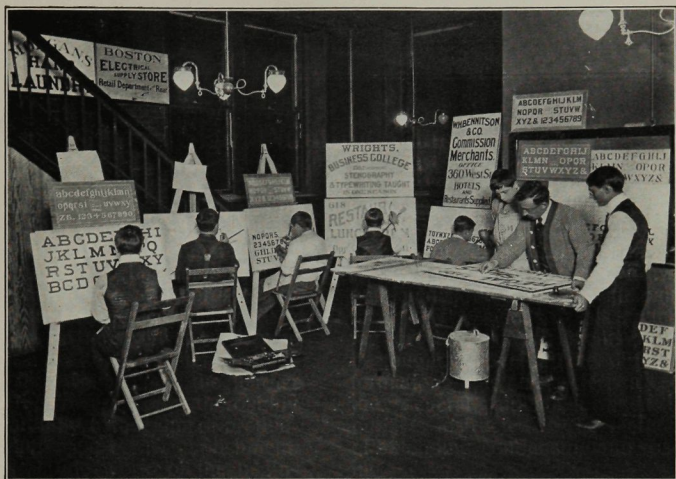
They are to be men after awhile, and some of them are to be skilled

workmen, foremen and proprietors, when those whose heads are now whitening and whose forms are beginning to stoop have passed away.

There has never been a time when trades of all kinds, and more especially the printing line, were more in need of workmen a little above the average. The Board of Education is beginning to realize this and in order to keep up the standard of work they are now making it possible for a boy to learn the first principles of a trade so as to overcome the most discouraging part of a trade—apprenticeship.

This department does not aim to teach anything more than the different terms used in the trade, sizes and styles of type and composition of straight matter. Presswork is also taught.





## Sign Painting Class

BY H. COOKE

THE inauguration of a class in Sign Painting, at the outset was naturally regarded as experimental, to be demonstrated by the actual work and progress of the members of the class; and in order to be most effective, it was necessary to apply a system of gradation that would carry the learner from the lowest point, thoroughly and carefully, to the point of productive and creative accomplishment.

The crude work of the beginner is in practicing the sixteen different alphabets—eight of capitals and eight in lower case—which constitute the ground-work of lettering. These letters comprise what is termed the Roman, the Egyptian, the Tipped-Egyptian, the Half-block, the Full-block, the Round-block, and Italics.

After they have thoroughly mas-

tered the manner of preparing the board, which is imperative in order to prevent absorption or running of the paint, the letters are drawn with pencil, then follow with paint brush. But previous to this sketching process, measurements must be taught, as well as the different formations and characteristics of the several alphabets, and the pupil is instructed in the methods of extending, condensing and spacing.

The mixing of the paint is also taught, with lessons on colors, tints, combinations and adaptabilities.

During the short period in which the present class has been taught, the progress of all has been wonderful indeed, when it is considered that without exception their education is not extensive.



Composition and Presswork  
done by Students of





[illegible][illegible]

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



0046215808

